

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 12, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 12, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 (Berger, et al.)

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 61-63, 69, 81 and 86-94 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Berger, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,893). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Each independent claim includes a “casing string” that is cemented in the wellbore and has a deployment valve. By contrast, a formation testing apparatus disclosed in *Berger, et al.* with its circulation valve is incorporated into a work/drill string (*i.e.*, not casing) that is not cemented in the wellbore. The formation testing apparatus in operation directly accesses the formation by positioning the testing apparatus with the string adjacent reservoirs for testing. These aspects of the work string and testing apparatus as taught in *Berger, et al.* are in contradiction to cementation of casing that prevents access to the formation. Furthermore, “casing” identifies a particular form of tubing string that is distinct from these drill strings, coiled tubing, and small diameter work strings described in *Berger, et al.* As defined in Schlumberger’s online oil field glossary at “<http://www.glossary.oilfield.slb.com/MainSearch.cfm>,” casing is (1) “[l]arge-diameter pipe lowered into an openhole and cemented in place;” and (2) “[s]teel pipe cemented in place during the construction process to stabilize the wellbore.”

Therefore, *Berger, et al.* fails to teach, show or suggest each and every element of claim 1, 61, 81, 88 or 92. Further, claims 1, 61, 81, 88 and 92 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 61-63, 69, 81 and 86-94.

Claims 1, 4, 13, 14, 17, 61, 64, 65, 68, 70-73, 76, 77, 80-82, 85, 95 and 96 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Tubel, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,268,911). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

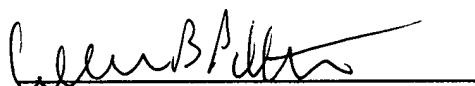
Each independent claim includes a "casing string" that is cemented in the wellbore and has a deployment valve. As visible in Figure 10 of *Tubel, et al.*, a valve (reference number 614) is included with a completion/production string (606) carried by a tubing (608) that may be a drill pipe, coiled tubing or production tubing as described at column 16, lines 26-29. As described above regarding *Berger, et al.*, casing identifies particular tubing such that the string/tubing that includes the valve in *Tubel, et al.* is not a casing string cemented in the wellbore. While casing (601) is shown in Figure 10 and other embodiments, there is no indication that the casing itself includes a deployment valve.

Therefore, *Tubel, et al.* fails to teach, show or suggest each and every element of claim 1, 61, 70, 81 or 95. Further, claims 1, 61, 70, 81 and 95 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1, 4, 13, 14, 17, 61, 64, 65, 68, 70-73, 76, 77, 80-82, 85, 95 and 96.

Conclusion

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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